VI. *Part of a Letter from Mr.* Ralph Thoresby, *F. R. S. to Dr.* Hans Sloane, Reg. Soc. Secr. *concerning ſome* Roman *Antiquities found in* Yorkſhire; *and a Storm of Thunder, Lightning, and Rain, that happen'd there,* Auguſt 5, 1708.

Leeds, September 18, 1708.

Honoured Sir,

IF there had been any legible Inſcriptions upon any of the three *Roman* Monuments ſent me ſome Months ago from our *Adellocum*, you had then heard from me: One of theſe has been evidently an Altar, having the *Diſcus* or Hearth very plain upon the top; another I deſire your Opinion of, for tho' it be made ſtrictly in the form of an Altar in all other reſpects, it wants the *Diſcus* or *Lanx* upon the top, and I have never yet ſeen any *Altar* without one, and it ſeems too ſmall, (being but eighteen Inches high and ſix broad,) for a *Commemorative Monument*; the three Rolls, or Wreaths upon the top are ſo entire, that it is plain there never was any thing elſe wrought upon it: Now whether any of the *Roman Aræ*, or *Altaria*, were made without a *Diſcus* or Hearth, is what I deſire to know.

The more immediate occaſion of this is to acquaint you with ſome of the effects of a late *Storm of Thunder, Lightning, and violent Rain*, which happened the 5th day of the laſt Month. I was then at the *Spaw* at *Harrow-gate*, near *Knaresbrough*; where having a ſpacious View upon the open Forreſt, I obſerved the Motion of the

the Clouds and Storm, which began in the Weſt, wheel'd about by the North and Eaſt to the South: When the Night drew on, the Lightning muſt of neceſſity appear more dreadful. The Intermiſſion betwixt the Flaſhes was very ſmall; the Claps of Thunder were ſo very loud, and the Lightning ſometimes ſo continued, that Perſons were generally apprehenſive of ſome damage, tho' the more ſurprizing effect of the Storm was by the Rain, as will appear by the Sequel. But firſt as to the Lightning; It burnt down a Barn near *Scarbrough:* but I ſhall confine my ſelf to thoſe Parts where I was, which I have atteſted under the Miniſter's Hand Mr. *Thomas Furnis* of *Bewerly* near *Pately-Bridge*, about ſix Miles from *Ripley*; who writes, that *Thomas Horner*, with others, flying from the violence of the Rain, which ſeem'd rather to fall in *Spouts* than Drops, took ſhelter in a neighbouring Barn; whence, after ſeveral frightful Thunder-claps, they were expell'd by the *Bolt*, as they term'd it, but really the Lightning, which ſinged the Hair of the ſaid *Thomas Horner*, blew another Man backward who was climbing up the Hay-Mow, left a Sulphurous ſtench behind it, and in the concluſion, burnt the Barn and Hay. As to the *Inundation* it was ſurprizing; it tore up much of the Road and Street from the Church to the Bridge, and made Pits, in ſome places ſeveral Yards deep, threw down part of a Barn and a Stable, both of them lately built, it puſh'd into moſt of the Houſes in the Town; the Water, in ſome, was as high as the Soles of the Windows, and block'd up the Door of one Houſe with Gravel almoſt to the very top; and if it had continued with that violence half an Hour longer, moſt of the Town had been in the utmoſt danger: Several Perſons were in great danger, but only one Woman drown'd; ſhe was hurry'd away with the violence of the Stream, and not found till the 4th day after: It removed the Bole of a large Oak (now ſold for about

about 4 Nobles) ſeveral Yards; bore down the moſt part of 4 Wood Bridges; and has left at the end of the great Stone Bridge, or within about 100 Yards of it, as much Gravel, *&c.* as is computed at above a thouſand Cart Loads: One Neighbour gives Ten Pounds for removing the Stones and Gravel left in a ſmall Tract of Ground.

This, Sir, to me ſeems very remarkable, becauſe effected by the Rain alone; for the Miniſter adds expreſly, " For all this Deluge, the River *Nidd* kept within its " Bounds: Thus the Divine Providence was pleaſed to " temper Mercy with provoked Juſtice; I wiſh we may " be as ſenſible of the Cauſe of this aſtoniſhing Calami- " ty, as we are of the Effects.